



Wildlife WHEP Wisconsin 4-H Wisconsin 4-H Forestry

Website <https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/opportunities/projects/outdoor-education/>
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“TRACKS” – May 2022

*Participation in wildlife & forestry activities are open to all Wisconsin 4-H club members.
You can be enrolled in any 4-H project and participate in the activities.*

Wildlife WHEP & Forestry 4-H Friends,

The days are getting longer, and the temperatures are, slowly, creeping up! More people are getting outdoors and that means more human-wildlife encounters! While it may be tempting to assist a young animal that appears to be separated from its mother, it's best chance of survival is to stay with its mother.

Check out <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/WildlifeHabitat/orphan> for tips on how to determine if an animal is truly orphaned. If you find a fawn lying alone unless the fawn is sick or injured, leave it alone. Leave the area and do not go near the spot again. The mother will not return if people or dogs are present.

Reasons to keep wildlife wild:

- 1) wild animals are highly stressed by humans and domestic animals. This can cause sickness and even death.
- 2) wild animals have specialized dietary needs. Human food items will most likely cause more harm and will not provide nutritional benefits.
- 3) wild animals carry different diseases and parasites; some are transmissible to humans and domestic animals.
- 4) wild animals that learn non-normal behaviors from humans and domestic animals will likely not survive if released into the wild
- 5) most animals are protected under state and federal laws and cannot be taken from the wild or possessed by unauthorized citizens.

Contact a wildlife rehabilitator immediately, if any of the following apply:

- The animal's parent is dead or no longer in the area (trapped and relocated).
- The animal has been attacked by a predator (dog, cat, another wild animal).
- The animal is bleeding and appears injured (bruises, punctures, cuts, broken bones).
- The animal is emaciated, very weak, cold or soaking wet or has diarrhea.
- There are flies, fly eggs, maggots or many ticks, lice or fleas on the animal.
- The animal is in a dangerous location (busy street, parking lot).

WHEP & Forestry 4-H Statewide Contests, 4-H Wildlife & Forestry Art Contests & Tri County 4-H Tournament Wildlife Contest

Update from April 1 & 2, 2022: 4-H youth participants were from the following counties: Calumet, Columbia, Dodge, Iowa, Jefferson, Kenosha, La Crosse, Ozaukee, Shawano, Sheboygan, Walworth, and Washington. Art entries were in 4 age/grade divisions and 18 different topics. The WHEP & Forestry Contests were in 3 age/grade divisions and on 10 different topics. The Tri County Tournament Wildlife Contest was in 10 age/grade divisions covering typical wildlife topics. Thank you all for participating and family members coming to learn more.

April's "Wildlife & Woods" Virtual Session was GREAT because we learned about the Great Lakes Area. The Great Lakes hold six quadrillion gallons of fresh water! That provides enough fresh water for more than 40 million people. The Great Lakes landscape includes more shoreline than both the East Coast and West Coast combined. The Great Lakes have numerous island groups, called archipelago. They are habitat for many rare species including Veery warblers, the black-crowned night herons, piping plovers, merlin, American martin and rare plants. Some stands of hemlocks on the islands are over 400 years old! The Lake Erie water snake is no longer an endangered species because it happily eats the invasive round goby fish. Another Great Lakes invasive species we learned about is the sea lamprey. The American basswood, a common tree in the Great Lakes area, is one of the most popular woods for carving and basket weaving. Wild turkeys also live in this area and are the largest game bird in North America. Each year, approximately 1.8 million recreational anglers fish the Great Lakes for numerous species. There is lots of different kinds of fish to identify, so work on your ID skills now.

For more virtual learning activities using interactive story maps, try out the [Great Lakes Quest](#). It is GREAT FUN for all family members. Upham Woods Outdoor Learning Center and Wisconsin Sea Grant collaborated to develop these activities.

Much thanks to the youth leaders for their GREAT presentations all season!!! **Thank you, Wisconsin 4-H Wildlife, & Woods Team Leaders.**

Do you need wildlife & forestry activities to do in your county? Wildlife WHEP WI 4-H & Wisconsin 4-H Forestry committee members and youth leaders can do age specific hands-on activities in your county. We'll train your youth and adult leaders at the same time. Parents, youth, and adult leaders are encouraged to participate to find out how easy it is to lead these hands-on activities. Contact us anytime and reserve your program dates. Digital copies of the Wildlife & Forestry Skill Level Booklets are available, and you can print your own copies.

We have topic suggestions for you on the "Backyard & Back 40" Wildlife & Forestry Activities – Just let us know and we'll email you: Wildlife/Forestry Activities – “Anytime or Anywhere”, along with Wildlife WHEP and Forestry Class Topics. There are topics for every interest and age group in the listings. **Backyard & Back 40 activities include:** 1.) Raising Beetles to control Invasive Purple Loosestrife, 2.) Building Bat Houses, 3.) Pollinator Habitat Improvement, 4.) Building Butterfly/Rain Gardens, 5.) Milkweed & Monarch Project, 6.) Improving Upland Bird Habitats, 7.) Improving Habitat for Migrating Land Birds & Bird Watching, 8.) Water & Riparian Areas Improvements, 9.) Trees for Wildlife, Recreation, & A Renewable Resource, 10.) Maps, Topography, Compass, & GPS, 11.) Viewing Wildlife & Camera Hunting, 12.) Urban Wildlife, 13.) More to come.

Kerri, “TRACKS” Editor

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